

Improving the Academic Performance of Students in the Fiscal and Financial Management Course at Nakhon Pathom Rajabhat University



Miss Thidarat Suebyart

Lecturer at Nakhon Pathom Rajabhat University

Situation in Thailand



More
competition
for good
jobs after
graduation

Need to
help
students
prepare for
the AEC

Many Thai
universities
are revising
curriculums

NPRU Public Administration Program Curriculum Changes

Old Curriculum

- Fiscal and Financial Management course was studied by third year students.

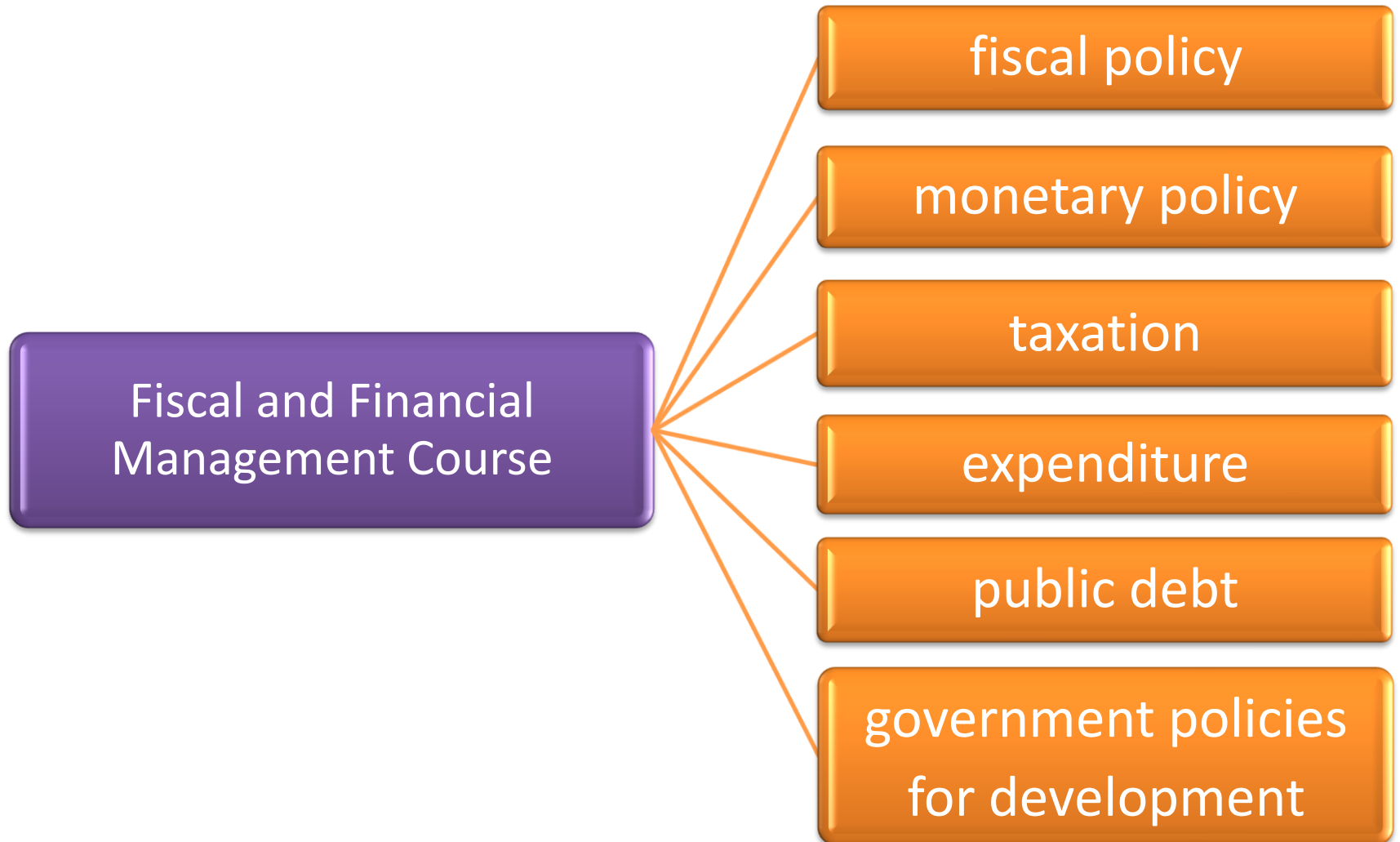
Changes

- In 2012, NPRU's Public Administration curriculum was changed.
- Two semesters of part-time training were added.
- Subjects and timing were condensed.

New Curriculum

- Fiscal and Financial Management course is now studied in the first term of the second year.
- Students study economics in the second term of the second year.

Complex Course



Old Curriculum

1st Year

- Public Administration
- Human Resources
- Thai Bureaucracy
- Thinking & Decision Making

2nd Year

- Economics
- Public Policy
- Local Law
- Research

3rd Year

- Fiscal and Financial Management

➡ 4th Year

New Curriculum

1st Year

- Public Administration
- Human Resources
- Thai Bureaucracy
- Thinking & Decision Making

2nd Year

- Fiscal and Financial Management
 - Public Policy
 - Research
 - Economics
 - Local Law
- } 2nd Term

3rd Year

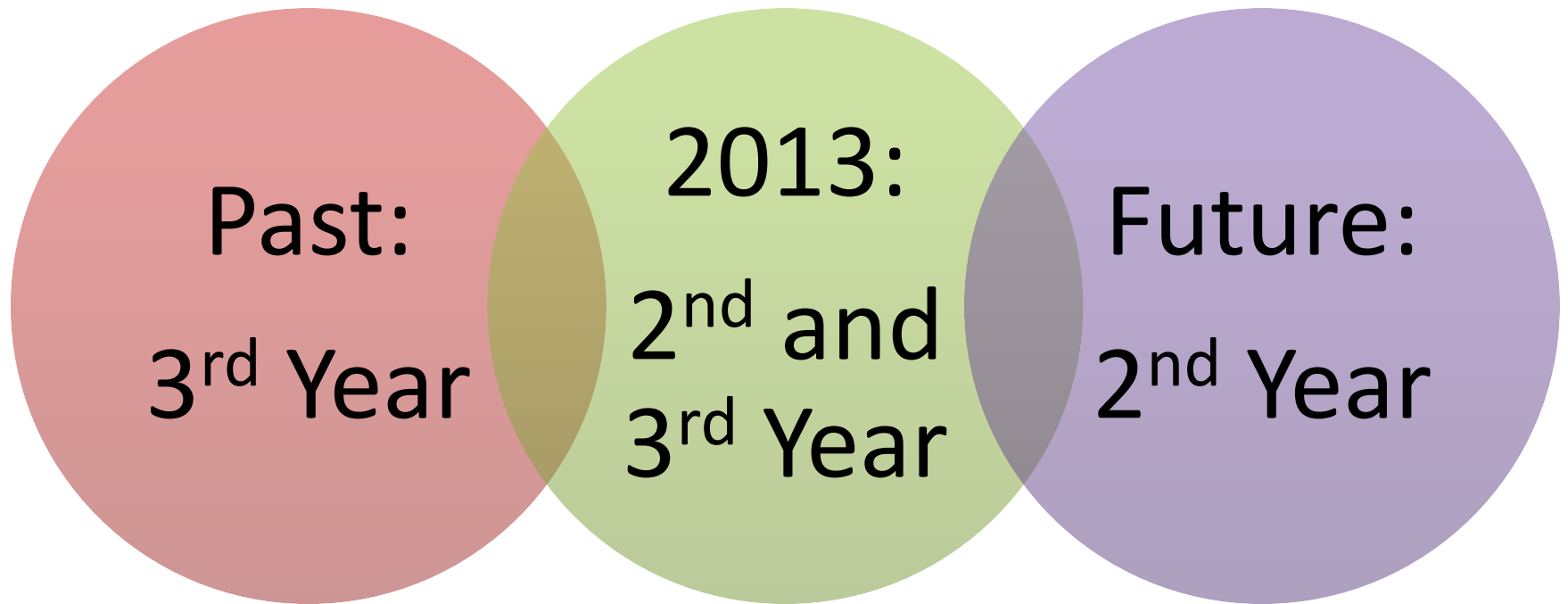
- Part-time practical training

➡ 4th Year

Challenge for 2nd Year Students



My Challenge = My Opportunity



Identifying the challenge

Analyzing scores

Comparing groups



Understanding factors for improvement

Focus groups

Interviews



Implementing changes for improvement

Student-centered case studies

Five learning and teaching strategies



Evaluating improvement

Final scores

Classroom observation



Planning for the future

Revise future courses

Suggestions for improvement

Research Questions for Improvement

1

- How does the performance of second year students differ from third year students?

2

- What are the factors that support the successful study of Fiscal and Financial Management?

3

- How can the instructor improve the performance of second year students studying Fiscal and Financial Management in the future?

Research Methods

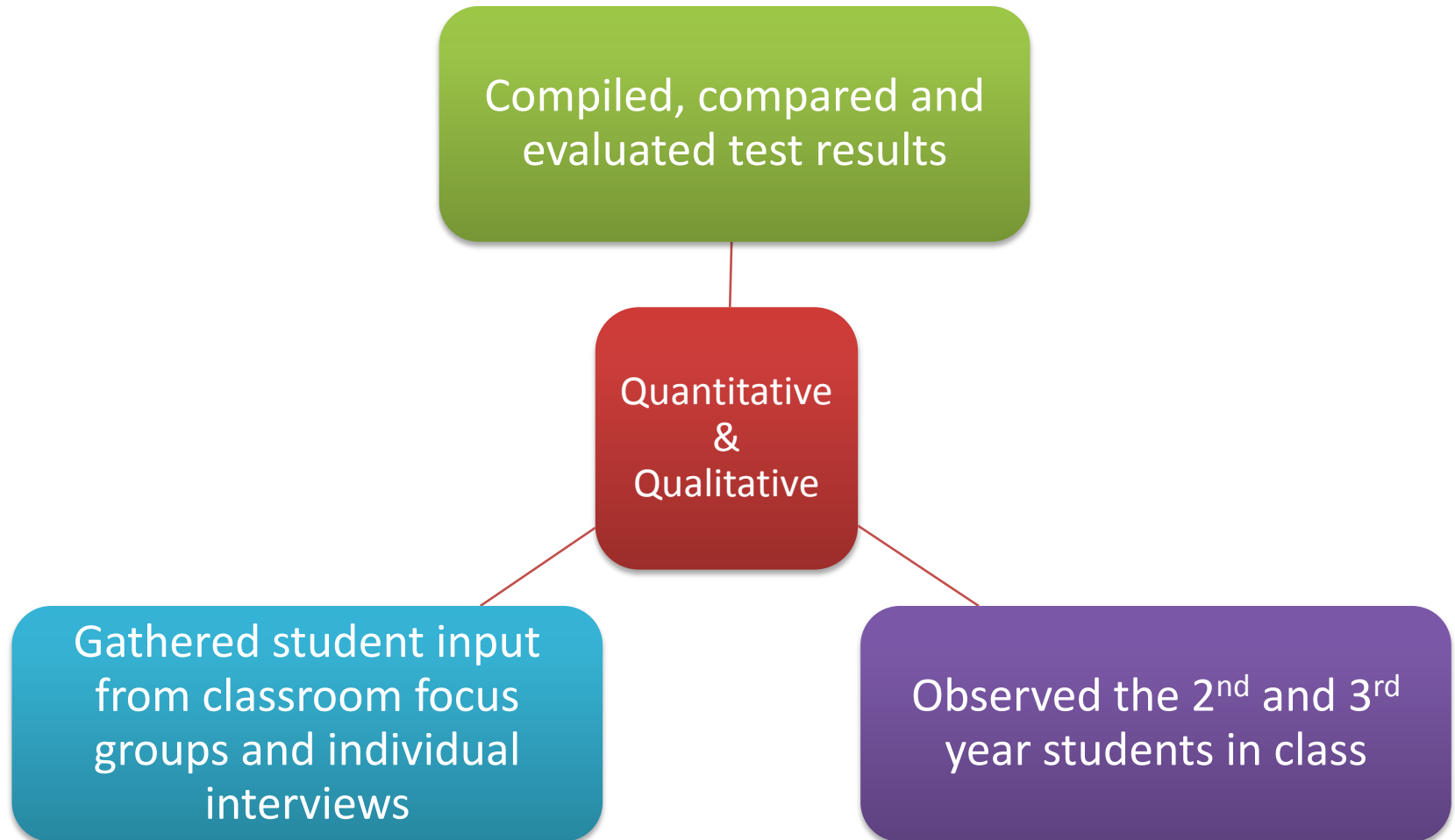
Focus

- Focused on quantitative and qualitative data from:
 - 203 second year students
 - 177 third year students

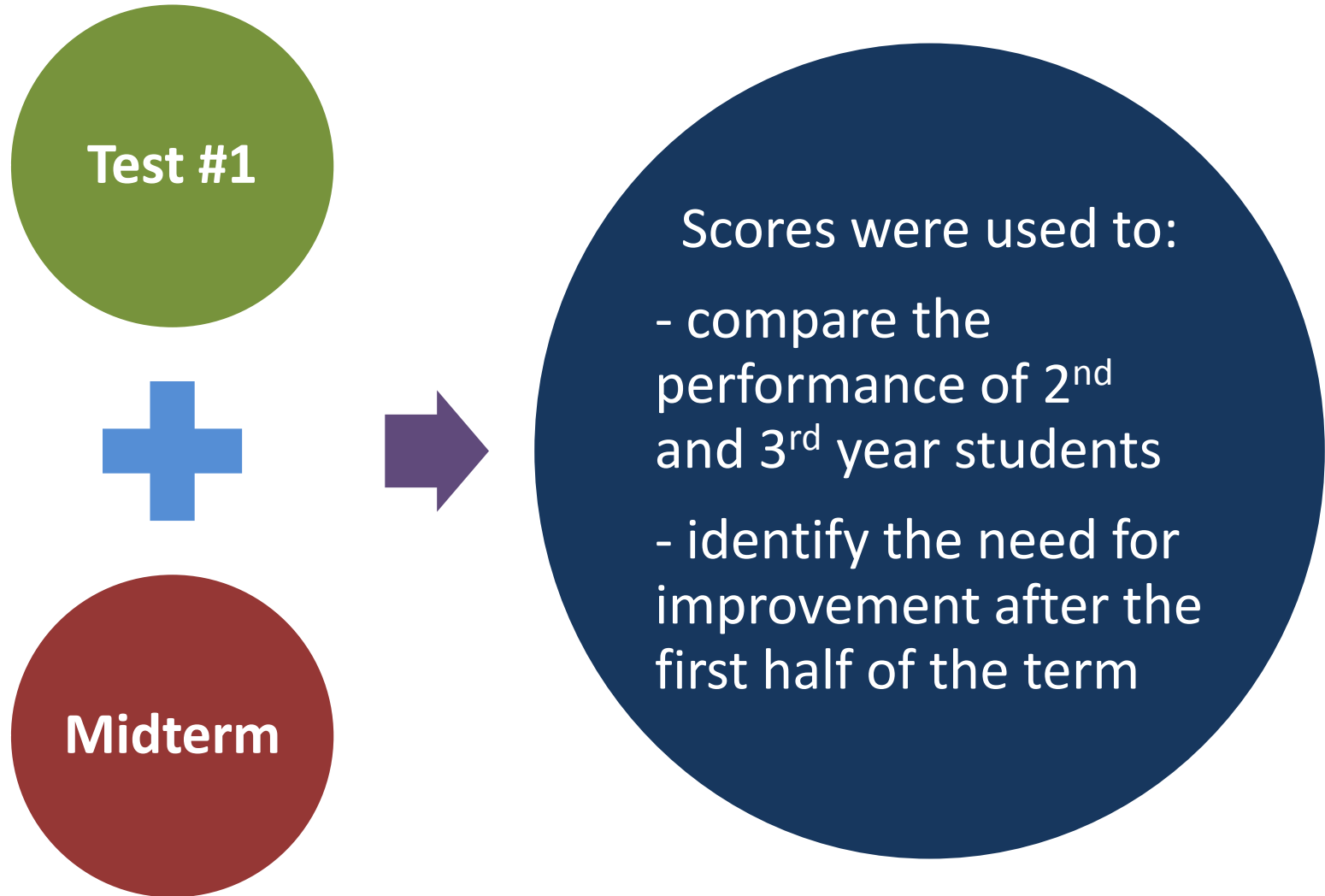
Concepts

- Used action research to deal with a challenging situation
- Improved student learning using student-centered approaches

Information Collection Methods



Quantitative Research Tools

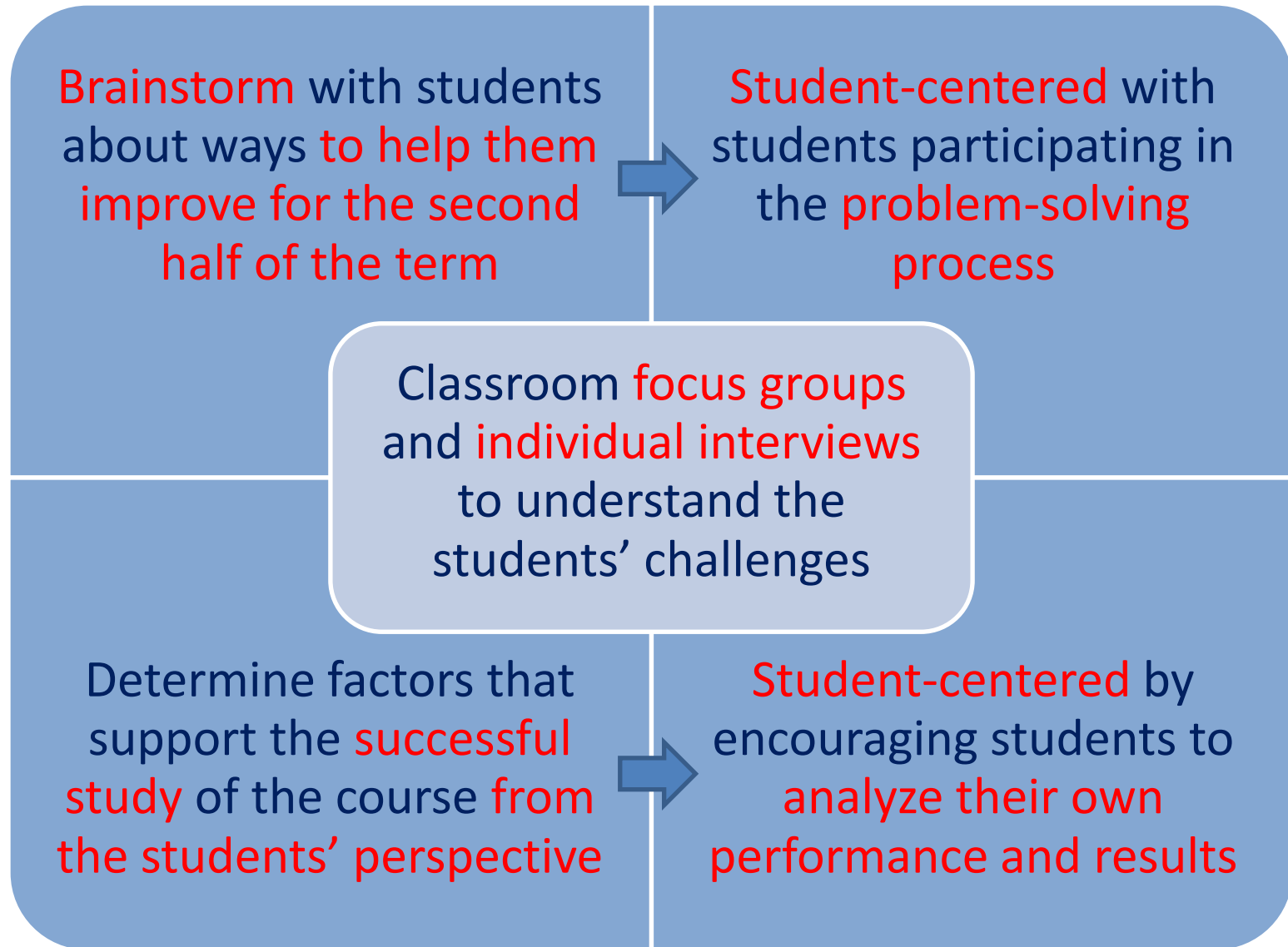


Comparison of 2nd and 3rd Year Students' Performance on the Fiscal and Financial Management Midterm 2013

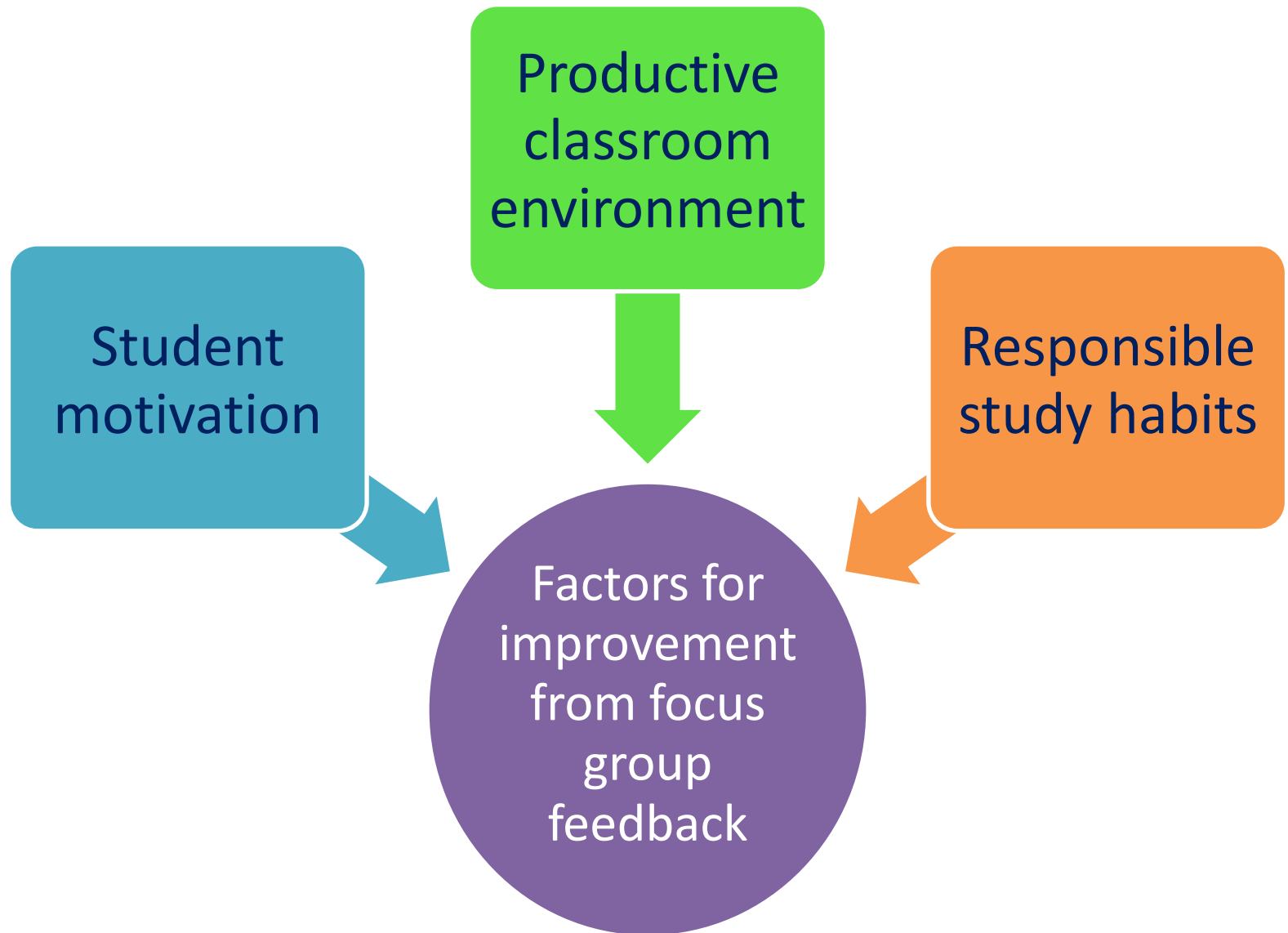
Percentage Correct	Equivalent Grade Range	Percent of 2 nd Year Students	Percent of 3 rd Year Students	Percentage Difference
90 - 100%	A	0%	0%	-
80 - 89%	A	0%	0%	-
70 - 79%	B - B+	2%	4%	+2%
60 - 69%	C - C+	9%	13%	+4%
50 - 59%	D - D+	29%	27%	-2%
Below 50%	E	60%	56%	-4%



Understanding Factors for Improvement



Focus Group Feedback



Implementing Changes for Improvement



Added student-centered
group activities in class

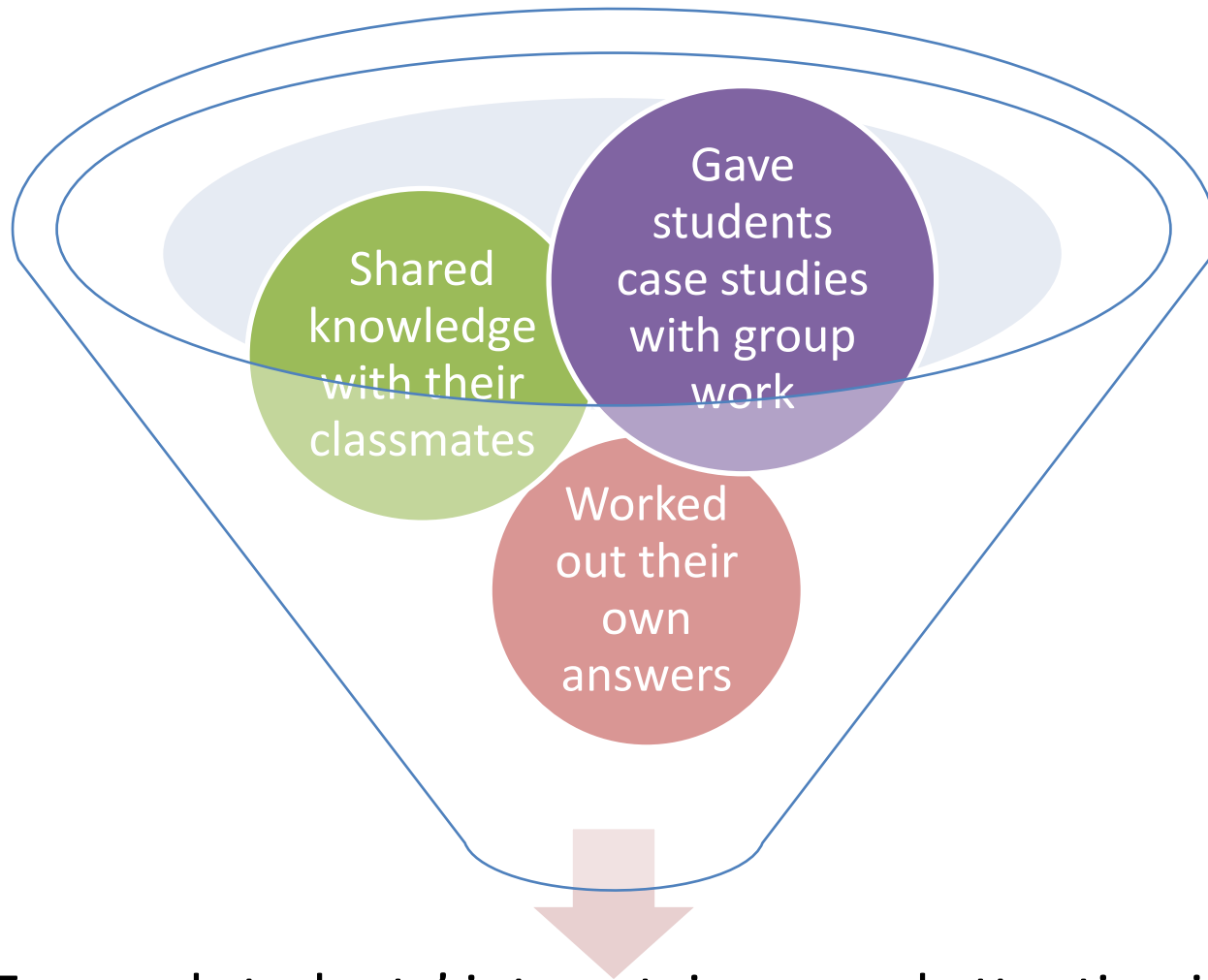


Students and instructor
focused on feedback issues



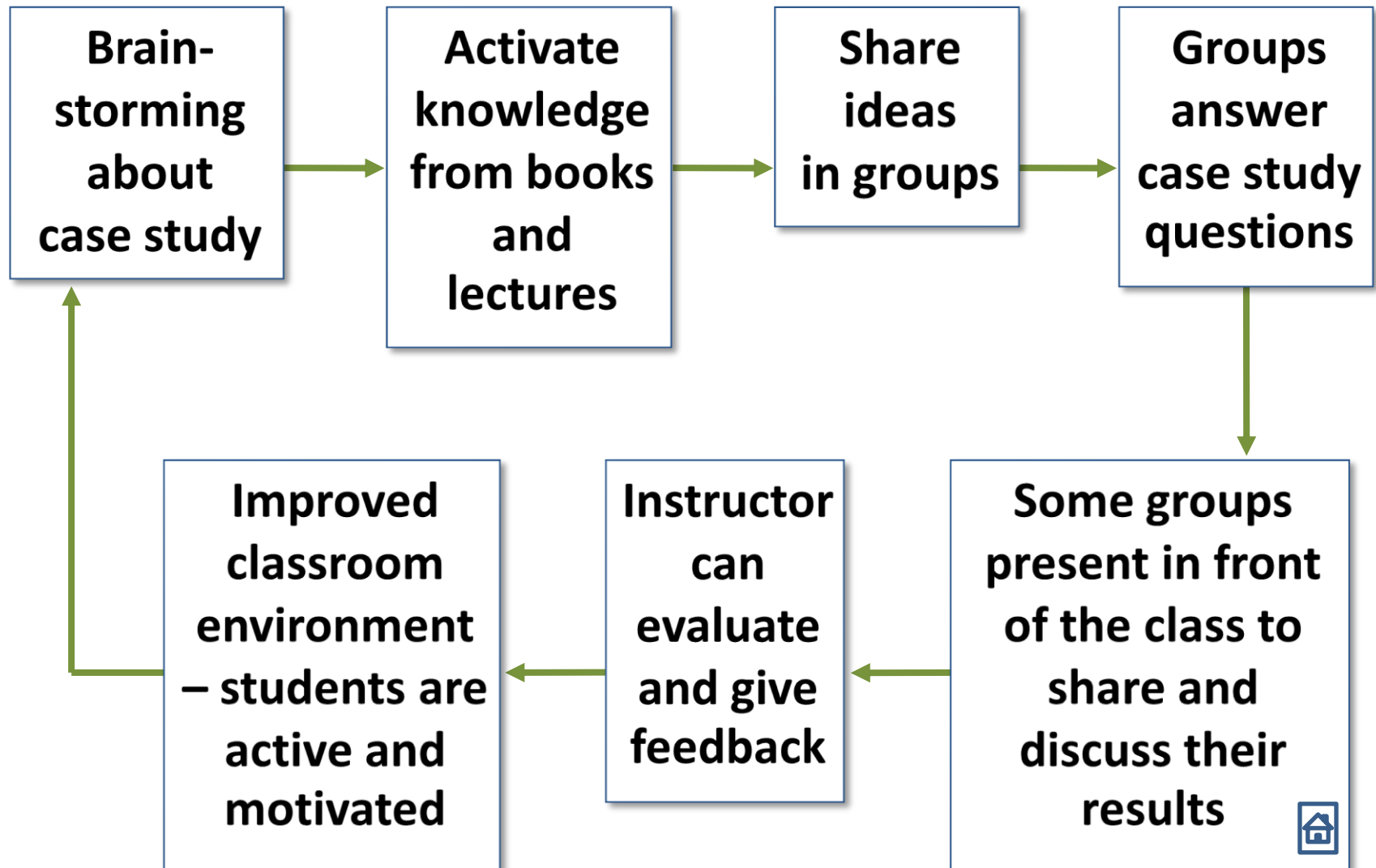
Made changes in the second
half of the term

Student-Centered Group Activities

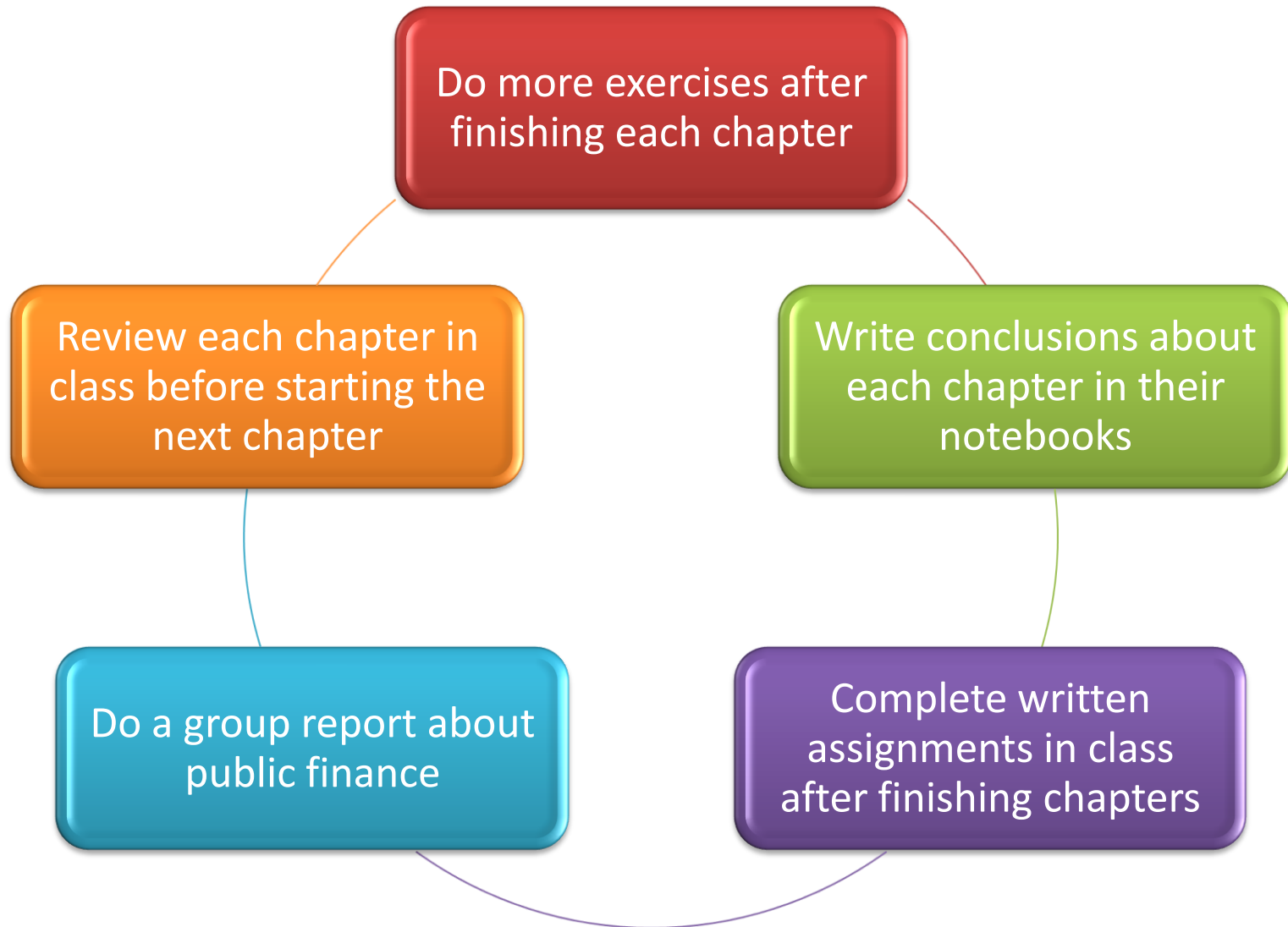


Engaged students' interest, increased attention in class, and deepened their understanding of the topics

Positive Cycle of Student-Centered Case Studies with Group Work



Five Strategies to Improve Students' Understanding



Evaluating Improvement – Course Grades

Grades	Number of 2 nd Year Students	Number of 3 rd Year Students	2 nd Year Percentage	3 rd Year Percentage
A	3	10	1.47%	5.64%
B+	8	7	3.94%	3.95%
B	19	22	9.35%	12.42%
C+	37	34	18.22%	19.20%
C	43	34	21.18%	19.20%
D+	40	33	19.70%	18.64%
D	29	24	14.28%	13.55%
E	24	13	11.82%	7.34%



Suggestions for Improvement

More student-centered methods

- Use more student-centered methods in the class to share ideas and motivate the students.

Invite

- invite a mayor or other government officers to give firsthand knowledge and real world experience to students.

Read or watch the news

- Students should read or watch the news before studying this subject.
- This will help them understand the Thai economic situation and government policies better.

Suggestions for Improvement

Study economics first

- If students take the Economics course first, they can understand the Fiscal and Financial Management course better in the following term.

Curriculum feedback

- The curriculum could be evaluated by recent graduates who can give feedback on the important things they learned that they use in their jobs or areas where their education could be improved.

Class size

- Class size should be considered carefully, especially for more difficult subjects.
- If the class size is too large, it can have a detrimental impact on student motivation, learning, and performance as was seen in the lower scores of the third year students in 2013.

Thank You!



Presenting

